

Family

Hey guys how's everyone doing? Things are going good here. I started this program called Redemption a few weeks ago and it's really been an eye opener for me. This class combined with bible study is really helping me grow into a better person and one of the things we talked about in class that touched a soft spot was the phrase "the family that doesn't grow together grows apart."

You guys have and always will be the biggest thing in my life when it comes to defining who I am. And I'm really scared of that happening and it has already. One of the questions in our study this week was: "In 100 words or less write the type of family member you were towards your family when you were free. Don't focus on the good or bad but try to see things from their point of view." I wrote, "I imagine them seeing me as the type of guy that was strong minded, good with people, outgoing and liked to have fun. Keeping family together was/is important to me but I didn't always make the most mature decisions. So I didn't always get the respect from others I felt I needed.

It hit home pretty hard because I often wonder how you all view me now and I think the worst when I never hear from you. Not keeping in contact I feel like I've failed at a lot of things in my life and I love you boys very much. Being sober and having all this time has really given me time to evaluate myself and I know I want to be a better person inside and out. I know it has to be embarrassing for you all having your older brother in prison. Especially for my charge and I'm sorry.

that you have to deal with that or have dealt with that. The times I've wrote you I've been negative in a way and have looked for sympathy and understanding but I feel like it was selfish somewhat on my part to put you guys in that position. The week before in phase Two of "Developing Positive Change" we had to write 15 things we appreciate about our families. Sharing in class I realized I've been really blessed with an awesome family because other peoples things they appreciated seemed weak compared to what I appreciate. I appreciate how we were raised with a strong sense of family, maybe it was inadvertently because growing up poor kept us close with Aunt Rhonda and the girls, but I definitely believe it was to our benefit. Anyway I just wanted to share what I appreciate about my family just so you all know what's going through my mind.

1. I appreciate my Grandma showing her love and being understanding,
 2. I appreciate the fact that we grew up close w/ our cousins.
 3. I appreciate how Amber didn't hold my son over me like a lot of women do.
 4. I appreciate the closeness that my brothers and I had growing up
 5. I appreciate the understanding and support I got from my family when I fell.
 6. I appreciate that my nephew and son have been kept close.
 7. I appreciate that Amber lets my family take Dakota to go visit my Grandma.
 8. I appreciate the way Aunt Rhonda was always there to listen when I was fighting with mom.
 9. I appreciate how my dad gave me the freedom and trust to do my thing.
 10. I appreciate how my brother Nate and Jess came and saw me every week in court.
 11. I appreciate how much my brothers used to look up to me.
 12. I appreciate the responsibility & sense of self worth being the eldest brother brings.
 13. I appreciate how being a father and my sons love has helped change my life perspective.
 14. I appreciate all the times when I've messed up no one has thrown it in my face.
 15. I appreciate the memory of the closeness and joy I got out of simple things like cleaning the house with loved ones.
- Love and Miss You Guys Your Bro from JAZZIE BOXX